EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM TO THE

WANSTEAD HIGH SCHOOL (CHANGE TO SCHOOL SESSION TIMES) ORDER 2005

2005 No. 2058

1. This explanatory memorandum has been prepared by the Department for Education and Skills and is laid before Parliament by Command of Her Majesty.

2. Description

2.1 This Order is made under section 2 of the Education Act 2002. Article 2 provides that the Changing of School Sessions Times (England) Regulations 1999 do not apply to the governing body of Wanstead High School. Article 3 specifies that the Order shall have effect until 31st December 2005.

3. Matters of special interest to the Joint Committee on Statutory Instruments

3.1 None

4. Legislative Background

4.1 The Order is made under section 2 of Chapter 1 (sections 1 to 5) of the Education Act 2002. The purpose of Chapter 1 of that Act is to facilitate the implementation of innovative projects that may (in the opinion of the Secretary of State) contribute to the raising of educational standards. Specifically, section 2 gives the Secretary of State the power, upon the application of one or more qualifying bodies, to suspend (and make consequential modifications to) particular provisions of education legislation in order to further such innovative projects. Orders made under s. 2 have effect for the period specified in the order, which cannot exceed 3 years.

4.2 The Order suspends the Changing of School Session Times (England) Regulations 1999 (SI 1999/2733). The start and finish times for school sessions are decided by the governing body of each school. However, these regulations set out detailed procedures to be followed by the governing bodies of community and voluntary controlled schools in making any change to session times, including consultation with interested parties. In particular, the regulations require that parents be given at least 3 months' notice of any change to the start or finish time of the school day and that any such change can only be made with effect from the beginning of the school year.

5. Extent

5.1 This instrument applies to the governing body of Wanstead High School of Redbridge Lane West, Wanstead, London E11 2JZ.

6. European Convention on Human Rights

No statement is required.

7. Policy background

7.1 The Power to Innovate ("the Power") provides the Governing Body of schools, LEAs, the proprietors of certain special schools and Education Action Forums with an opportunity to apply to the Secretary of State to lift regulatory requirements in education legislation for a time-limited period (by means of a Power to Innovate Order), so they can trial a specific innovative project that has the potential to raise educational standards. The Power is the result of concerns that innovative ideas can be unintentionally thwarted by detailed regulations and legislation. It is intended to facilitate the implementation of these ideas and to ensure that no opportunity is lost to trial innovative proposals that could raise standards. It is intended that the lessons learned will be used for further deregulation for the system as a whole.

7.2 The Order will allow the early introduction (from the beginning of the school year 2005/2006) of twenty minute tutor review periods at the end of the school day to support the development of more personalised learning for students. Without the Order, the change would not be able to be introduced until the beginning of the school year 2006/2007. On a three week rolling programme, each student will have dedicated time with their tutor to discuss over-all progress, targets will be set and reviewed and under achievement will be challenged. Specific pastoral issues may be discussed and parents may attend. Students required to attend the interview will end school at 3.25 pm, those students not required will be free to leave at 3.05 pm. The weekly taught time for each student will remain unchanged.

7.3 The individual reviews will be of additional benefit to SEN students. Bringing academic and pastoral guidance together will ensure greater coherence of support within the school.

7.4 Before making an application under the power to innovate provisions of the Education Act 2002, applicants must consult such persons as appear to them to be appropriate. Consultation has taken place with the LEA, all parents by letter, the Parent Teacher Association, teachers and sample groups of students. No opposition was expressed by any individual or group.

8. Impact

8.1 A Regulatory Impact Assessment has not been prepared for this instrument as it has no impact on business, charities or voluntary bodies.

9. Contact

Penny Baker at the Department for Education & Skills Tel: 020 7925 6099 or e-mail: penny.baker@dfes.gsi.gov.uk can answer any queries regarding the instrument.